

# **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)**

## **Steering Committee Meeting**

October 19, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1311

### **Draft Meeting Notes**

#### **Associated documents/handouts:**

- Agenda
- BDCP Conservation Strategy Framework Overview
- 8/10/07 Draft Steering Committee Meeting Notes
- 8/24/07 Draft Steering Committee Meeting Notes
- 9/17/07 Draft Steering Committee Meeting Notes
- 9/21/07 Draft Steering Committee Meeting Notes
- BDCP Recommendations for long-term conveyance for inclusion in the Conservation Strategy Framework (paper copy)
- Draft Fish Agency Recommended Language (paper copy)

#### **Action Items and Key Decisions**

- SAIC will submit draft of the approach to developing the Framework document to Steering Committee (SC) by 10/26 for review by members prior to next SC meeting

#### **Updates**

- Walt Wadlow is moving into a new position and will be stepping down as SC member. BDCP management and members expressed appreciation for his contributions to the process.
- Delta Vision has new draft of their document online and will be presenting that vision at a two-day meeting Thursday-Friday of next week

#### **Meeting Notes Review**

8/10, 8/24, 9/17, and 9/21 Notes Approved

#### **Public Outreach**

Karla Nemeth presenting. The workgroup distributed an RFQ to several firms and received three written proposals. They interviewed all three respondents. The interview format included a mock public presentation followed by a question and answer session. The workgroup made a unanimous decision and has a recommendation, which will be announced in the near future.

#### **Framework Document: Conservation Strategy Approach**

See also Associated Documents and Handouts. The approach that the SC chooses to outline in the Framework is intended to help guide the Steering Committee as it moves into the planning process for the BDCP and related NEPA/CEQA environmental review process. The Framework document will be concise and moderate in length (approximately 10-20 pages).

Timeline: Framework document will be completed by end of 2007; BDCP will be completed by end of 2008; and EIR/EIS will be completed by the end of 2009.

Definition of Terms: “Interim actions” are those taken between now and the time that the BDCP is permitted (including OCAP and Wanger driven actions); “near-term” actions are those implemented immediately after BDCP permitting; and “long-term” actions are those that reflect the long-term approach to meet the planning goals of the BDCP. The Steering Committee recognized that some long-term actions may be implemented soon after the BDCP is permitted.

Paul Cylinder presenting. The BDCP Conservation Strategy Framework Overview handout is a proposed broad outline of what the Framework document may contain. Today’s discussion will define that content more clearly. The Framework is a document that will describe the current view of the Steering Committee regarding the most “promising” approach to water conveyance infrastructure and identify the types of restoration activities the BDCP is likely to propose. When that Framework document is complete the BDCP development process will commence, and that process will identify specific activities and actions. The Framework will include background on the BDCP decision-making process and progress to date, a description of the approach to conveyance infrastructure, the intended use of the document in the planning process, information needs and uncertainties, and description of the process for beginning to develop the BDCP. The document will also recognize the need for the BDCP to include a governance or implementation structure and process. It will not include specific conservation measures or programs. The Framework is an important step for BDCP to memorialize the current view of the SC a conveyance approach and on other plan elements that will need to be developed as part of the planning process.

#### *Fisheries agencies handout*

John McCamman and Russ Strach presenting. NOAA, DFG, and USFWS jointly developed a description of a conveyance option to be analyzed in 2008. The conveyance description provided by the fisheries agencies is different from the one proposed by the management team in the following ways:

- BDCP members support the analysis, not the conveyance option itself, thereby avoiding language that appeared to be pre-decisional.
- The description includes language about near-term goals.

There was general support by PRE and NGO members of the Fisheries-proposed language. CFBF expressed reservations that in-Delta water quality could be compromised if the isolated facility is utilized preferentially. NGO members noted that the most promising approach to meet conservation goals would be a staged, or phased, approach, with improvements in the south Delta in the near-term and conveyance with two diversion points in the long term. There was general consensus that BDCP should determine governance structure early in the process.

## **Public Comments**

Justin Frederickson. CFBF. Mitigation should be built into this solution at early stages, anticipating future issues. Incorporating these solutions early would streamline the process, make a more defensible document, and would more likely have buy-in from users and politicians from across the state. Dual conveyance is surfacing as the approach, but it has problems, and appropriate direct mitigation options might include screening the Cross Channel, or considering water quality in the Environmental Water Account. Indirect mitigation outside the Delta could include water conservation and use efficiency measures, source control, and new water storage. Assurances and governance should also be discussed early in the process.

Jonas Minton. Planning and Conservation League (PCL). BDCP is considering looking at near-term south of Delta improvements and conveyance mechanisms that would include isolated facility to dual conveyance, which is the solution that PCL has been suggesting. They suggest expediting the process by tackling the governance issues now without waiting for programmatic agreements.

## **Meeting attendees**

### *Representatives*

Karen Scarborough (BDCP Chair, The Resources Agency)

Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)

Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)

Cindy Darling (The Resources Agency)

Tom Birmingham (Westlands)

Kenny Watkins (CFBF)

Dale Myers (Zone 7)

Ara Azhderrian (SLDMWD)

Frank Michny (USBR)

Leo Winternitz (CALFED)

Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)

Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)

Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)

Anthony Saracino (TNC)

Greg Gartrell (CCWD)

Walt Wadlow (Santa Clara Water District)

Jerry Johns (DWR)

Roger Patterson (MWD)

Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)

Russ Strach (NOAA)

John McCamman (DfG)

Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

John Chillemi (Mirant)

Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)

Tom Howard (SWRCB)

*By phone*  
Bill Boyd  
Doug Wallace  
Dan Nelson  
Wayne Spencer  
Denise Reed